

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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70

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IO-10 /062 W

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O 100136Z DEC 74 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 937

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

COMIPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15228

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJ: UPSURGE IN DELTA FIGHTING

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE SAIGON FROM CAN THO DEC 9
BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

CAN THO 359

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MUPS, VS

SUBJECT : UPSURGE IN DELTA FIGHTING

REF : CAN THO 0356, 0357

1. FIGHTING CONTINUES AT THE HIGH LEVEL REACHED LAST WEEK
IN THE VC/NVA SURGE THAT BEGAN IN LOWER DELTA AND IS NOW
EXTENDING TO AREA NEAR CAMBODIAN BORDER IN KIEN TUONG.
MORE THAN 200 VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED TO CORPS
FOR 24-HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0600 HOURS DECEMBER 9. PATTERN
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OF FIGHTING SIMILAR TO THAT OF PAST FEW DAYS, WITH HEAVIEST

CONCENTRATION IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE. TWO BATTALIONS OF 31ST REGIMENT SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES INCLUDING ONE CO KIA AND OTHER WIA ENROUTE RELIEVE HUNG LONG DISTRICT TOWN AND ARE NOW BEING WITHDRAWN. RF UNITS FROM VINH LONG PROVINCE REMAIN IN THE DISTRICT TOWN. VINH BINH PROVINCE QUIETER, BUT CONTACT LOST WITH FIVE OUTPOSTS OR WATCHTOWERS FOLLOWING GROUND ATTACKS. HARASSMENTS NUMEROUS IN BA XUYEN PROVINCE, BUT NO GROUND ATTACKS OR HEAVY ABF'S.

2. NEW ELEMENT IN SITUATION IS INCREASED ACTIVITY IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE. TWO CONTACTS NORTH OF MOC HOA CLAIMED TOTAL OF 116 VC/NVA KIA. TUYEN NHON DISTRICT ALSO ACTIVE WITH SEVERAL ATTACKS ON OB'S, ONE ON DISTRICT MARKET, AND ONE ON NAVY BASE. CORPS HAS NOT YET IDENTIFIED ANY ELEMENTS ENGAGED IN THIS ACTIVITY AS ELEMENTS OF 5TH NVA DIVISION, BUT THAT'S PROBABLY DESIGNATION.

3. ARVN OFFICERS CONTINUE TO REACT CALMLY TO SITUATION. HOWEVER, EXPENDITURES OF HELICOPTER TIME AND ARTILLERY AMMO CAUSING DEEP CONCERN. REGION HAS USED MORE THAN HALF OF UH-1 AND ALMOST ALL CH-47 ALLOCATIONS FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER, AND CORPS COMMANDER IS REQUESTING SUPPLEMENTAL ALLOCATION FROM JGS. 105MM HE EXPENDITURE SINCE DECEMBER 5 NOW ABOVE 20,000 ROUNDS, ALMOST HALF MONTHLY ALLOCATION.

4. IN VIEW OF CONTINUING STABILITY IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE, ESSENTIAL TRAVEL BY US PERSONNEL PERMISSABLE ON HIGHWAY 4 AS FAR SOUTH AS CAN THO FROM 0900 TO 1700 HOURS. TRAVEL ON ANY OTHER ROUTE TO BE CLEARED BY CONGEN CAN THO. SIGNED CUSHING UNQUOTE
LEHMANN

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TAGS: MOPS, VS, VN
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